

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE: December 5, 2003

RE: Comparing Juvenile Justice Measures

This week's report is the second in a series that compares measures of involvement with the justice system for mental health service recipients. This request came from the National Data Infrastructure Grant Outcome Work Group. The first report in this series compared measures of criminal justice involvement for adult recipients of mental health services (www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2003/pip110703.pdf). This report compares five measures of involvement with the criminal/juvenile justice system for young people (aged 5 to 21) who were admitted to a community mental health program in Vermont during calendar year 2002. Four of these measures are based on the analysis of administrative databases obtained from Vermont's justice agencies. The fifth measure is based on the results of a problem assessment conducted by a clinician or intake worker at the time of admission.

This analysis relied exclusively on existing administrative data sets. No special purpose data collection was involved. The mental health data set used in this analysis is an extract from the monthly service report data set submitted to the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services by designated community mental health programs. The data set used in this analysis included the date of birth and gender of each person admitted to treatment during calendar year 2002, and the response to the problem assessment item "Involvement with criminal justice (yes, no, or assessment not conducted)". Data regarding incarceration (in adult and juvenile facilities) and custody of young people during calendar year 2001 were obtained from the Department of Corrections and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the state's juvenile justice agency. A data set provided by the State Police included the data of birth, gender, and criminal charge for all young people arrested by any Vermont police force during calendar year 2001. Data sets provided by the Vermont Center for Justice Research and the state Office of the Court Administrator provided information about all young people charged with a crime in a Vermont Family Court or District Court during calendar year 2001. For purposes of analysis, a data set of any criminal justice involvement was created by merging all of the justice data sets described above. Because these data sets did not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of individuals from the mental health data set who were represented in each of the criminal justice data sets.

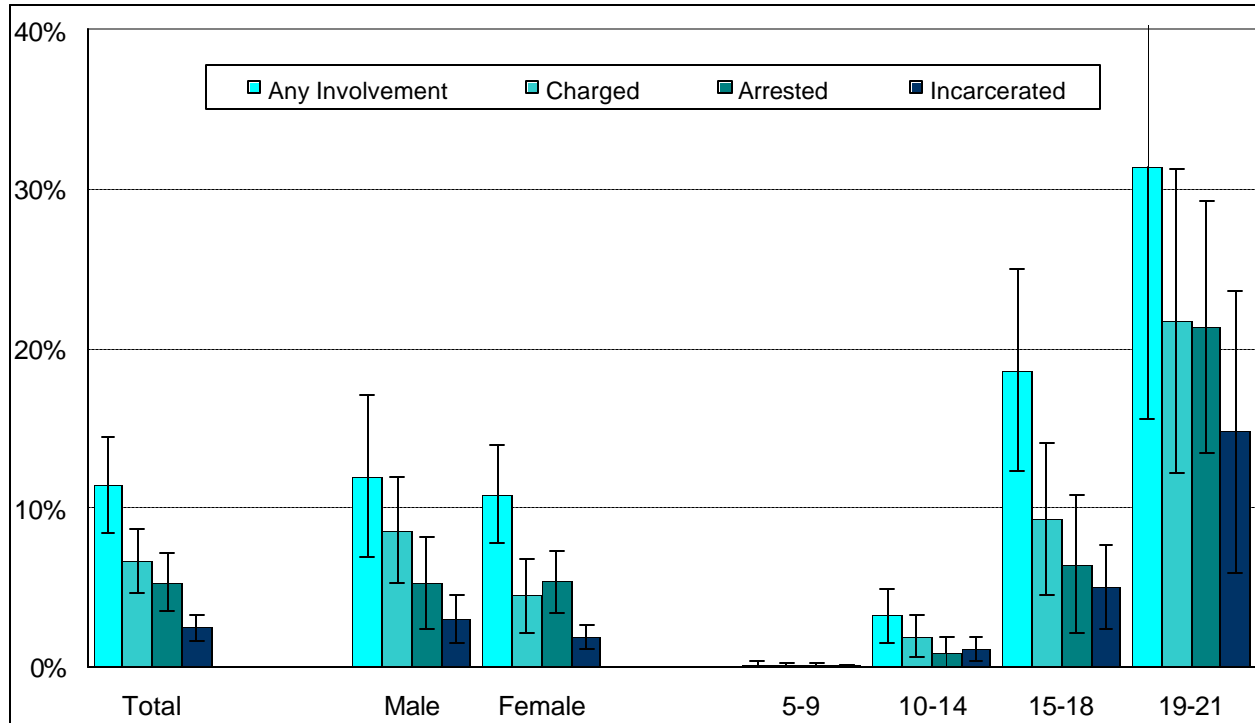
Results of clinical problem assessments of criminal justice involvement were similar to results of analysis of administrative data. Analysis of criminal justice data sets, however, indicates there were substantial differences between different types of criminal justice involvement.

The rate at which young mental health service recipients were arrested and charged with a crime tended to be similar (5% and 7%, respectively). Both of these rates were substantially higher than the incarceration rate (2%). Both were also lower than the rate of any criminal justice involvement 11% (any criminal justice involvement included state custody in addition to the above categories).

Overall youth justice involvement as measured by administrative data sets was not significantly different than overall criminal justice involvement as measured by the intake problem assessment. This was also true for all age and gender groups as well.

We also look forward to your questions, comments about the findings reported here and your suggestions for further analysis of these data. As always, you can reach us at pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

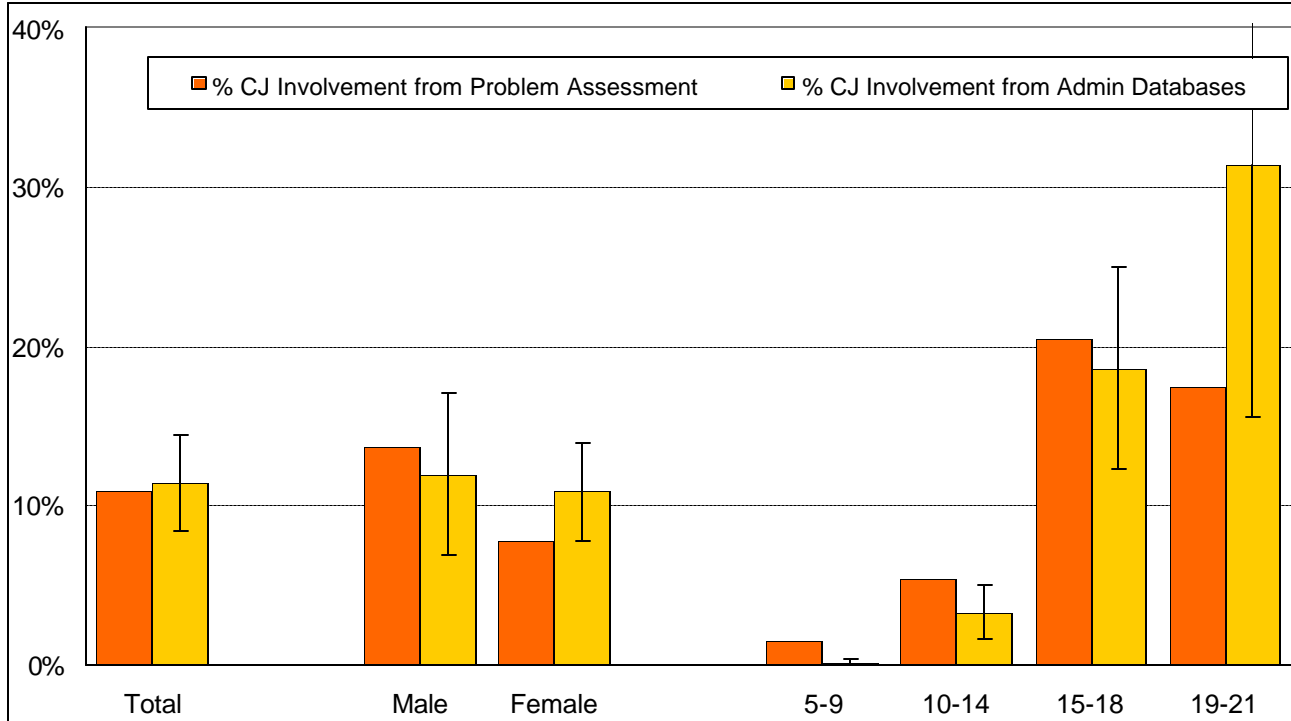
Four Measures of Criminal Justice Involvement Juveniles Admitted to a Community Mental Health Program Vermont: CY 2002



	Number Admitted	Percent Any Involvement	Percent Charged	Percent Arrested	Percent Incarcerated
Total	5,136 ± 63	11% ± 3%	7% ± 2%	5% ± 2%	2% ± 1%
Male	2,712 ± 46	12% ± 5%	9% ± 3%	5% ± 3%	3% ± 1%
Female	2,421 ± 42	11% ± 3%	4% ± 2%	5% ± 2%	2% ± 1%
5-9	1,090 ± 25	0% ± 0%	0% ± 0%	0% ± 0%	0% ± 0%
10-14	1,668 ± 37	3% ± 2%	2% ± 1%	1% ± 1%	1% ± 1%
15-18	1,681 ± 40	19% ± 6%	9% ± 5%	6% ± 4%	5% ± 3%
19-21	698 ± 17	31% ± 16%	22% ± 10%	21% ± 8%	15% ± 9%

Analysis is based on extracts from the State mental health MIS database and data provided by Vermont's State Police, Department of Corrections, Social Rehabilitation Services, and Center for Justice Research. The State mental health clients include all youth admitted to a mental health program who were under 22 years of age during calendar year 2002. Incarcerated includes all individuals who have spent at least one night in a state prison, local jail, or Woodside correctional facility. Arrested includes all individuals who have been taken into custody. Charged includes all individuals who have been charged with a crime in Vermont juvenile or district court, excluding CHINS Abused and Neglected. Any involvement includes all individuals on probation, parole, and delinquents on SRS caseload as well as those arrested, charged with a crime, or incarcerated during calendar year 2001. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to estimate the unduplicated number of people in each data set and the unduplicated number of people shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).

**Administrative Data Compared to Clinical Data
Criminal Justice Involvement
Juveniles Admitted to a Community Mental Health Program in Vermont: CY 2002**



	Total # Admitted	Completed Problem Assessment		Criminal Justice Involvement % from	
		#	% w/ Data	Problem Assessment	CJ Admin Databases
Total	5,136 ± 63	3,904 ± 50	76%	11%	11% ± 3%
Male	2,712 ± 46	2,114 ± 37	78%	14%	12% ± 5%
Female	2,421 ± 42	1,790 ± 33	74%	8%	11% ± 3%
5-9	1,090 ± 25	861 ± 20	79%	1%	0% ± 0%
10-14	1,668 ± 37	1,279 ± 30	77%	5%	3% ± 2%
15-18	1,681 ± 40	1,297 ± 32	77%	20%	19% ± 6%
19-21	698 ± 17	469 ± 13	67%	17%	31% ± 16%

Analysis is based on extracts from the State mental health MIS database and data provided by Vermont's State Police, Department of Corrections, Social Rehabilitation Services, and Center for Justice Research. The State mental health clients include all youth admitted to a mental health program who were under 22 years of age during calendar year 2002. Incarcerated includes all individuals who have spent at least one night in a state prison, local jail, or Woodside correctional facility. Arrested includes all individuals who have been taken into custody. Charged includes all individuals who have been charged with a crime in Vermont juvenile or district court, excluding CHINS Abused and Neglected. Any involvement includes all individuals on probation, parole, and delinquents on SRS caseload as well as those arrested, charged with a crime, or incarcerated during calendar year 2001. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to estimate the unduplicated number of people in each data set and the unduplicated number of people shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).